

**MAY 2003 AGENDA**

SUBJECT High Priority Schools Grant Program – New Implementation Grant Awards	X	ACTION
		INFORMATION
		PUBLIC HEARING

Recommendation:

Approve applications for additional schools to participate in the High Priority Schools Grant Program (HPSGP)

Summary of Previous State Board of Education Discussion and Action

Beginning with its June 2002 meeting, the State Board of Education has approved 568 schools to participate in the High Priority Schools Grant Program.

Summary of Key Issue(s)

In September 2002, AB 425, the Budget Act of 2002, appropriated an additional \$20 million to allow more schools in the first decile of the 2001 Academic Performance Index (API) to participate in the High Priority Schools Grant Program. As a result, the base funding for the program increased from \$197 to \$217 million. However, in March 2003, the passage of SBX1 18 reduced the HPSGP appropriation by \$37.4 million. Based on this amount, the HPSGP Office calculated that additional schools can be added.

Selected schools were mailed letters on September 27, 2002 informing them of their eligibility and asking them to return Letters of Intent to apply by October 18, 2002. Upon receipt, schools were provided information to guide them through the application process and told that their narrative summaries and completed applications were due to the Department by February 10, 2003.

Applications received were subjected to a thorough review by program staff. Narratives were reviewed to insure they addressed the seven key elements needed for program approval. Budgets were inspected to ensure they were accurate and aligned with program objectives. Finally, staff completed a technical review of each application to ensure all required forms, signatures, and assurances are included.

Fiscal Analysis (as appropriate)

After the passage of SBX1 18 the appropriation for the High Priority Schools Grant Program is \$179.6 million.

Attachment(s)

None

Names of successful applicants will be recommended for approval and provided to the Board through the supplemental mailing for its May meeting.